

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church, Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XX, Number 33

Edited by Anne Hawkins

August 25th, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

Prayer for politicians is simple self interest

NOTHING could be more calculated to get a clergyman into trouble than prayer. Before the last election Democrats routinely berated me for praying for President George W. Bush. These days I tend to catch it in the neck for praying for President Barak Obama. Further back in history, both Democrats and Republicans, alike, complained when we prayed for President William J. Clinton

You would be wrong to think that prayers for the president and the governor of the State reflect either political bias or political schizophrenia. Offering prayers for the civil authorities is one of the oldest customs of the church.

Prayers for the government, for example, are at the very top of St. Paul's priorities in his instructions to St. Timothy on how he is to conduct services at the Church in Ephesus.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may live a

of the nation as a whole. It was not until the 1928 revision that the Church felt it necessary to include a "Prayer for the Country" in the Book of Common Prayer.

That the prayers for the civil authorities also encompass prayers for the community as a whole raises the question of whether it is appropriate to pray for the civil authorities by name, viz: "Barak, the President of the United States" and "Martin, the Governor of Maryland."

Americans used always to follow the ancient English custom of praying for their leaders by name. Praying for the "Office of the President" did not come into vogue until political partisanship abolished good manners.

The fact of the matter is that it's entirely appropriate for our national, state and civic leaders to be mentioned by name in our intercessions. To be sure, they symbolize the community as a whole, but they are also individuals "set in authority over us."

It makes no difference whether or not we admire them or trust their judgement. By virtue of their office, they take decisions that affect our lives for good or ill. Actually, the more we mistrust them, the wiser we would be to pray for them. After all, if they won't take advice from us, there's still a chance they'll take it from the Almighty. **GPH✘**

FROM THE OUT IN THE ETHER

Internet & fax machine are far from a blessing

A DECADE or two ago back, I formed the opinion that the most damaging invention of all time was the fax machine. Nothing I had ever encountered spread uncharitable, and ugly sentiments as quickly and efficiently as facsimile transmission.

Today, of course, the fax machine teeters on the brink of extinction, edged aside by the ubiquitous Internet. If the fax machine was fast, the Internet moves at the speed of light. Ill-considered, rude and hideously unkind thoughts flash from one side of the globe to the other pretty well as swiftly as they spring to mind.

One might say the telephone does the job as efficiently.

Return of the best value in Baltimore!

SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

Every Thursday at 5.30 PM

Menu: Salad, Entree & Dessert -- delicious!

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quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty," he wrote (*1 Timothy 2:1 & 2*).

It doesn't matter in the least whether or not the civil authorities in question are Christian, pagan, or even atheist. We're obliged to pray for them no matter what their religious convictions.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers," wrote Paul of the pagan Emperor Claudius in his Epistle to the Romans (*Chapter 13:1-7*): "For there is no power but of God . . . For he is the minister of God to thee for good . . ."

Our Prayer Book's "Prayer for the President," thus, has a long and honorable history. It was adapted in 1789 from the "Prayer for the King" in the English Book of Common Prayer. The original was first published in 1547, predating by two years the Book of 1549 -- the first official Prayer Book to be published in the English language.

There was a heated debate among the American revisers as to whether or not it was appropriate for the Church to pray in the same way for a President of the United States who holds office for a limited term as it prays for a monarch who holds office for life.

This wasn't a mere matter of semantics. The English Prayer Book of 1662, the one used in America before the revolution, has no "Prayer for the Country." The prayer for the reigning monarch was deemed to cover this need.

The prayers for the President were included in the American Prayer Book. And they were apparently regarded in the same way the English viewed the prayers for the monarch -- as prayers not just for an individual, but for the well-being

Join us to hear

**ST. STEPHEN'S
CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS
CHORAL EVENSONG**

6.00 PM Sunday, September 6th, 2009

After all, it is the next best thing to a face to face conversation. But proximity tends to temper the inclination to insult the person with whom one is speaking. The fax machine and the Internet, by contrast, introduce an element of distance and a degree of anonymity that encourages folks to "let it all hang out."

Back in the days of snail mail, people were just as inclined to write rude letters. But walking to the Post Office or waiting for the mail man to pass by provided a cooling off period and time for second thoughts.

People still managed to write rude letters even before snail mail came into being, as St. Jerome's correspondence amply attests. But an awful lot of rude letters never got sent -- a boon and a blessing to both the writer, the intended recipient and, for that matter, posterity. **GPH✘**

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday, August 30th, 2009**

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: II Corinthians 3:4-11

The Gospel: St. Mark 7:31-37

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 32

First Lesson: Isaiah 29:18-24

Second Lesson: St. Mark 7:31-37

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

Join us at Choral Evensong

EVENSONG, a fusion of the monastic prayer offices of Vespers and Compline, is one of the jewels of the Anglican tradition. Presented by St. Stephen's Choir of Men & Boys on the First Sunday of every month, Choral Evensong begins at 6.00 PM and generally lasts between 30 and 40 minutes.

Visitors from all faith traditions are heartily welcome to join us in prayer, and all are invited to stay for a light reception following the service. Bring a friend. **ADRIC**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

The Eleventh Sunday After Trinity

O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer. Page 204

✠ St. Stephen's Traditional ✠ Episcopal Church

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Web Address: <http://www.ststephens-md.org>

RECTOR: The Ven. Guy P. Hawtin

ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. James V. Johnson, Jr.

VICARS: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley, The Rev. Robert Menas

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am -- Holy Communion

9.15am -- Holy Communion (Nursery & Church School)

11.15am -- Morning Prayer (Nursery)

(1st. Sun. of the month: Holy Communion at 11.15am)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday: 5.00PM Family Eucharist.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Helen, Joseph, Rachel, Frank, Carl, Charlotte, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Rosemary, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Rosemarie, Debbie, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Doris, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Dorcas, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Harriet, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, Judith, Angela, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Ruth, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, George, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Ernie, Pat, Lynn, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Rachel, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Eudora, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Mackie, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Geradine, John, & Maxine.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Richard, Donna, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Georgetta, Carolyn, Perry, Suzanne, Tony, Robert, Doris, Drake, The Norris family; Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Debbie, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Harriet, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Micki, Stephen, Erik, Carol, Sandra, Elsie, John, Robert, Mary, Michael

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Col. Scott Taylor, U.S. Army, Alex Bursi, U.S. Navy; Capt. Charles Bursi & Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, U.S. Air Force; Lt. Col. R. J. Lytle & PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, U.S. Army.

THE HYMNS FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, August 30th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 299 (Elbing)

Sing praises to God, who spoke through man

GRADUAL: 511 (Pleading Saviour)

Jesus, thou divine companion

SERMON: 155 (Melcombe)

New ev'ry morning is the love

COMMUNION HYMN: 201 (Malabar)

Strengthen for service, Lord

RECESSIONAL: 542 (Duke Street)

Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun

St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church

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